

The Watershed Partnership, Inc.

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Monday, March 11, 2015

From Jerry Silbert, M.D. in support of HB-5733, ***AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE TREASURER TO DIVEST FUNDS FROM FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES.***

Honorable members of the Environment Committee:

This bill is very very important. There are five times more fossil fuels in known reserves than can be burned to stay within what all nations agreed is the two degree centigrade red line. If that line is crossed if we are in the perilous territory of dangerous global warming. Yet the fossil fuel companies want to burn it all and then find more reserves to burn. Their stock prices depend on this.

And if burned it will devastate the earth. In fact, it could well be an existential issue for the entire human race. This is not fantasy. There is hard science behind these assertions. Many changes in the earths climate are happening faster than predicted and even the two degree centigrade red line may turn out to be a dangerous tipping point.

Dangerous global warming will affect all countries, but the poorest countries are the ones that will be hit first and the hardest. The world does not have that much time to take action to reduce CO2 output and the longer we wait the more difficult it will be to reduce our output to avoid crossing that red line.

Divesting from fossil fuel companies sends a strong moral message. Connecticut cares about the welfare of future generations and that fossil fuel companies are engaged in an immoral pursuit of profit at the expense countless human lives and the devastation of the earth.

Please support this bill. At least future generations (if there are any) can say you tried. At most, future generations can say that you helped turn the tide and saved humanity and the diversity of life on this beautiful planet from catastrophe.

Respectfully,

Jerry Silbert, M.D.

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